



## **MEDIA RELEASE: NGA-04-12**

DATE: December 25, 2004

CONTACT: Howard Cohen, 301-227-3105; [cohenh@nga.mil](mailto:cohenh@nga.mil)  
Stephen Honda, 301-227-2057; [Stephen.Honda@nga.mil](mailto:Stephen.Honda@nga.mil)

### **NGA Publishes Last Hardcopy *U.S. Notice to Mariners***

Today, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) changed the way *U.S. Notice to Mariners* are made available to the maritime community. With the printing and distribution of *U.S. Notice to Mariners* 52/04, NGA has published the last hardcopy version of this historical maritime safety publication.

Published weekly since 1869, the *U.S. Notice to Mariners* contains time-sensitive update information for all U.S. Government charts and publications that are produced by the NGA, the National Ocean Service and the U.S. Coast Guard. Also included in each *U.S. Notice to Mariners* publication is other pertinent maritime safety information that affects the safety of life at sea and safe navigation around the globe. Until today, it was the oldest continuous U.S. Government publication, it never missed a publication date and it had the highest printing priority after the Congressional Record.

Despite the long and noble record of the hardcopy production and distribution of the *U.S. Notice to Mariners*, it is no longer the most efficient means to provide critical navigational information to NGA's military and civilian customers around the world. Computer and communication technologies make worldwide data transmission both rapid and reliable. For over five years, mariners have had electronic access to complete and fully equivalent digital versions of this publication far in advance of their receipt of a mailed hardcopy version.

NGA will continue to provide digital versions of the *U.S. Notice to Mariners*, available free-of-charge, via the Internet at <http://pollux.nss.nga.mil/index>. Mariners have the option of downloading a complete digital version of the publication or performing database queries for any of the information in the document. In addition, a new e-mail subscription service is now available at this site that will automatically forward a digital version of the *U.S. Notice to Mariners* every week to any requesting customer. Finally, for those customers who still require a hardcopy version mailed to them, commercial printing companies will offer this service for a fee.

The phase out of hardcopy *U.S. Notice to Mariners* production will eliminate associated printing costs and promote environmentally sound business practices. On average, NGA printed and distributed 10,000 copies of this publication each week to customers around the globe. If stacked in a column, the annual volume of *U.S. Notice to Mariners* would measure roughly the height of 40 Washington Monuments.

NGA Director, retired Air Force Lt. Gen. James R. Clapper, Jr. said, "NGA has used technology to transform the way our maritime customers receive mission critical maritime safety information. Most importantly, this has reduced the time for mariners to access time-sensitive information and has also eliminated associated government costs to print and distribute data."

NGA is a Department of Defense combat support agency and a member of the National Intelligence Community whose mission is to provide timely, relevant and accurate geospatial intelligence in support of our national security. Geospatial intelligence is the exploitation and analysis of imagery and geospatial information to describe, assess and visually depict physical features and geographically referenced activities on the Earth. Headquartered in Bethesda, Md., NGA has major facilities in the Washington, D.C., Northern Virginia, and St. Louis, Mo., areas with NGA support teams worldwide.